

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196629

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 L-03 SP-02 INR-07 SCA-01

/040 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DAO'DONOHUE:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

D/HA - MR PALMER

EA/RA - MR WALKINSHAW

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R 191826Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG LETTER TO MAJOR U.S. CHURCH GROUPS

1. KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR WAS INFORMED ON AUGUST 14 BY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (UPC) STAFF MEMBER THAT HIS DENOMINATION AND TWO OTHERS HAVE RECEIVED IDENTICAL LETTERS FROM MINISTRY OF CULTURAL AND INFORMATION RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS SECTION CHIEF ON ACTIVITIES OF U.S. MISSIONARIES. OTHER DENOMINATIONS RECEIVING LETTERS WERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE U.S.

2. ACCORDING TO UPC STAFF MEMBER MCUI LETTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FOREIGN CHURCH RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN ROK AND NOTED THEIR ABSOLUTE LIBERTY TO CARRY ON RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES. AT SAME TIME LETTER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CERTAIN KOREAN CHRISTIAN FIGURES ARE CARRYING OUT SUB-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 196629

VERSIVE ACTIONS IN ROK AND ASKED THAT THE AMERICAN CHURCH

GROUPS WARN THEIR MISSIONARIES ABOUT INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH ACTIVITIES.

3. ACCORDING TO UPC STAFF MEMBER, LETTER SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED NAMES OF FIVE MISSIONARIES; TWO FROM U.S. METHODIST CHURCH (MATTHEWS AND DURST); TWO FROM UPC

(RICE AND ONE OTHER WHOSE NAME CHURCH OFFICIAL DID NOT GIVE) AND KRAUTSCH OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF USA.

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE HAD APPARENTLY SIGNED AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENT CIRCULATED IN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY IN LATE JUNE OR JULY. MCUI LETTER DID NOT THREATEN DEPORTATION BUT THERE WAS IMPLICATION THAT VISAS MIGHT NOT BE RENEWED FOR THE FIVE MISSIONARIES SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.

5. IN REPLY TO MCUI LETTER, UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS INDICATING THAT IT APPRECIATES LIBERTY IN ROK TO PROCLAIM GOSPEL. AT SAME TIME NOTES THAT MISSIONARIES SENT OUT ARE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED IN TERMS OF THEIR DEDICATION TO CHRISTIAN LIFE. HOWEVER, LETTER NOTES THAT THE UPC DOES NOT INSTRUCT MISSIONARIES ON WHAT THEY CAN OR CAN'T DO IN FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF THEIR CONSCIENCE. UPC LETTER DOES INDICATE THAT UPC WAS INFORMING MISSIONARIES OF THE MCUI LETTER.

6. UPC STAFF OFFICER INDICATED HE WOULD SEND US COPIES OF EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE. HE DID NOT MAKE ANY REQUEST FOR USG ACTION, INDICATING HE WANTED DEPT AND EMBASSY AWARE OF IT.

7. WHEN CORRESPONDENCE ARRIVES WILL FORWARD TO EMBASSY. IN THE MEANTIME REQUEST ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUL 2003  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROKG LETTER TO MAJOR U.S. CHURCH GROUPS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KS, US  
**To:** SEOUL  
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